

MINUTES

BOARD

OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING

ON LSA DOC. #08-429

Chairman Jerry Nulliner opened the public hearing at 6:10 AM at the Public Safety Academy of NE Indiana, 7602 Patriot Crossing, Room #2200, Fort Wayne, Indiana. A digest of the proposed rule as published in the Indiana Register was read and Mr. Nulliner then called for public comment.

Public comments on LSA Doc. #08-429

- a. Marty McCrindle, asked for an explanation of the addition of “non-fire service person: to 1-1-1-4..
- b. Howard Twining, current Chief of the Pipe Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department in Miami County, provided a written statement (attached), including the following:
 - (i) Another area of concern is the assignment of Proctor duties; section 655 IAC1-1-13(d)
This can be one of the following:
 - 1. Certified as at least an Instructor I or Instructor II/III.
 - 2. Holder of a Valid Teachers License.
 - 3. Faculty member at an institution of Higher Learning.
 - 4. A staff member of an Authorized Training Entity.

Number 4 would then mean that any of the staff of my department could proctor a test. That is confusing because I thought trained people had to be proctors. Maybe the definition of Authorized Training Entity is not what I think I read in 655 IAC 1-1-1.1 Definitions.

It says in (d) “Authorized Training entity” means any person or organizations that teach board-approved programs or courses in compliance with this title. What are we gaining here?

- (ii) The changes to the Instructor qualification requirements for recertification were the primary concerns. The number of hours required to recertify now includes the need to have at least 6 hours of attendance in classes in training in adult education. Then you list 3 examples;

learning objectives, test construction, and classroom teaching. For Instructor II/III add in the 6 hours of evaluating practical skills. How does an Instructor get this education in Indiana?

To me, a better first step would be to have a mentor program where new instructors team teach with established experienced instructors before they are turned loose on the world. We still have some with very poor instructional delivery methods getting through the system.

Local delivery of classes is essential to continuing the Volunteer fire departments in Indiana, so building road blocks to the formal training program /State Certification program is very counter productive.

Maintaining a pool of instructors who you can pay to come in and teach in the rural area is fine, but will not allow the flexibility we must have to bring the badly needed education to our first line public safety workers. We need to hold classes when/where we can get the firefighters in the door, might not be able to be on fixed schedule or place, this must be an extremely dynamic process.

Development of this system should be based on the needs of the volunteer, the paid guys can and will do what they want training wise, and can use the taxpayers time to gain the training; we need to be more supportive of the volunteer sector than the paid. Who paid your time and fuel to come here today?

We must develop methods and systems to effectively gain trained people to fill the stations, study after study shows the volunteerism is on the decline in the younger generations, so why do we work so hard to make recruitment and retention of quality volunteers more difficult?

c. Kent Kirkwall - Question was: are there new members of the Board and how many of the board members are certified as instructors in Indiana? We all agree we need qualified instructors, but lets not get so bogged down in who can or cannot teach that this makes it harder for volunteer firefighters to get the training. We need to have a system in place so we can train them in their home departments and not ask them to travel for recertification. Does the state have in place training for the adult education? If we go ahead with this change, what do we get? 655 IAC 1-1-12 (I) this is going to be an ADA violation, I have heard about the hazmat and someone not being able to read the label. If we have read a test in the past, do we leave ourselves open for an ADA challenge, if we cannot read the next test? Questioned 655 IAC 1-1-1.1 (h) (1) and the reason behind having to be an Indiana resident or affiliated with an Indiana fire dept in order to be an instructor.

d. Jeff Stigall - 655 IAC 1-1-1, administration for voluntary program, I would suggest removing the word voluntary and the state making all programs mandatory. There are a lot of firefighters on trucks that have never attended a class. It is time to remove these people or mandate that they take classes. A fire service person, 18 years old or affiliated with an Indiana fire dept, does this mean that when I retire I will no longer be able to teach?

Page 3, 655 IAC 1-1-1.1(m) – “subject matter specialist” - shouldn’t an instructor be in the room while class in session?

Page 3, 655 IAC 1-1-5.1, remove the word “voluntary”. There is nothing voluntary about this anymore.

Page 5, 655 IAC 1-1-5.1(c)(2) - Under certifications, fire service, on bottom, “hazardous materials incident command” is marked through; does this fall under NIMS now? Why are we taking this out?

Page 6, non fire service person certification, industrial setting needs addressed. They need hazmat commander.

Page 7, the firefighter 1 issue – 655 IAC 1-1-5.2 says you have to be instructor 1 and cert in level teaching; 1st, 2nd class firefighter can teach Firefighter I/II. I suggest that this be taken out. You cannot teach an NFPA class if you are not NFPA certified. You should have to be firefighter I/II to teach this.

Page 8, Instructor I/II, why is section 3 struck out?

Page 10 655 IAC 1-1-12 (h) - passed practicals. 180 days should be same as written, or this will get a lot more confusing.

Page 12, 655 IAC 1-1-12(k) - a student may retake as many times as desired within 180 days, further down it reads, must retake and successfully complete skills prior to testing. My suggestion is you can take this 3 times, and then you should have to retake the class. This is a big burden to the instructor if the firefighter wants to take this test every week until he passes this.

Page 13, 655 IAC 1-1-13(d), this is too loose; should be more specific about who can proctor. Anyone on any department could do it, if the dept. does training.

Page 14, 655 IAC 1-2.1-19 - 1st class firefighter for 1 year, should be able to teach at the level you are trained at. Continuing education - change this and add continuing education for all disciplines for firefighters. Law enforcement academy has continuing education for their instructors, and that is an option we need to look at.

e. Dave Elick, vice pres of IVFA - same issues were discussed at convention at Belterra.

Page 3, 655 IAC 1-1-5.1 - “unless the applicant is cert in all prereq...” I thought this was changed. If I want to teach firefighter I/II and I am cert 1st class, I cannot teach according to this; needs to be reworded.

Page 12, 655 IAC 1-1-12(l) - objection to deletion of oral testing. High school, intern program, they have tests read to them. High school, college, etc, if it is documented, why will we not recognize the problem?

Page 14, 655 IAC 1-2.1-19 Continuing education, we require it, from other branches of public service, and as long as we require proficiency based, 12 skills a year, ok; not hours. We are proficiency based, so we should have continuing education in proficiency.

f. Martin McCrindle - biggest concern is for the prerequisites and continuing education for Instructors in 655 IAC 1-2.1-19 and 655 IAC 1-2.1-20. I know what the requirements are for recertification as a teacher and I go through this every 4 years. I have to spend big bucks out of my pocket to maintain my teacher’s license. Ideally, education should be a rewarding experience for everyone. It should not complicate requirements or process.

g. Gerald George, Pike Twp FD – corrections required as follows:

Page 15, 655 IAC 1-2.1-75, NFPA 1670, chapter 2 should include “Section 4-2”, because that’s part of the objectives for the technical rescue certification levels.

Page 16, 655 IAC 1-2.1-75.4, NFPA 1670, chapter 2 should include “Section 4-2”.

Page 17, 655 IAC 1-2.1-75.5, NFPA 1670, chapter 2 should include “Section 4-2”.

Page 18, 655 IAC 1-2.1-100, NFPA 1670, Section 6-3 should be added because that’s part of the required objectives for the certification level. Also, in the prerequisites, Vehicle and Machinery Rescuer Awareness and Operations should have been left in instead of being deleted; that was a typo, I think. In (b)9, that should be deleted because this is a non-fire service person certification now.

Page 19, 655 IAC 1-2.1-101(a)(2), it should be “4-3”, not 4-2. Also Sections 6-3 and 9-3 should have been added because that was the original proposal 2 years ago. Subsection (b)(12) should be deleted because this is a non-fire service person certification now.

Page 19, 655 IAC 1-2.1-107 it should be “4-3”, not 4-2. Section 6 includes first responder. I cannot find that, this should be deleted.

Chairman Nulliner stated that the board had received several e-mails sent, and they are attached as part of the public comments. There being no further public comments, the hearing was closed at 7:00 P.M.

Jerry Nulliner
Chairman, Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education